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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/648,344	08/27/2003	Kenchi Ito	HITA.0427	3414
38327	7590	04/18/2005	EXAMINER	
REED SMITH LLP 3110 FAIRVIEW PARK DRIVE, SUITE 1400 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042			EVANS, JEFFERSON A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2652	

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Claims 1 to 15 are pending.

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. Figures 1A, 1B, and 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the empty space at the end of line 10 should be deleted to make clear that the abstract is a single paragraph.
4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: in the "Brief Description of the Drawings" section of the specification, reference needs to be made to figures 1A and 1B, not just figure 1.

Claim Objections

5. Claims 2 and 7 are objected to because of the following informalities: claim 2 – line 2, “substantially on” should be -- substantially at --. Claim 7 – line 2, “is also served” should be -- also serves --.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. Claims 1 to 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention due to:

A...Claim 1 – lines 4 to 6, the language “a first yoke provided on the opposite side to a tip surface of the main pole that faces a perpendicular recording medium” is confusing as to the relationship being established between the first yoke and the main pole. Opposite side from what? Lines 7 and 8, especially the phrase “in the first yoke”, are confusing (claim 2 includes similar language). Line 9, the phrase “at least one or more sides of a side” is confusing. Lines 9-13 are confusing as to the nature of the “sides” being established and the positional relationship between the sides (claims 8 and 9 include similar language).

B...Claim 3 – line 3, “formed virtually” is indefinite.

C...Claim 11 – line 2 to 5, the angle being established is unclear.

D...Claims 13 and 14 contain language same/similar to that of claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claim 1-5, 7, 10, 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kuroda et al (U.S. 6,775,099). Kuroda discloses a perpendicular recording head (figure 1) including a main pole (1), a first yoke (3), a coil (2), and a second yoke (8) for a reproducing head, wherein the main pole has a tip with an inclined surface (note figure 15) with the inclination depicted falling within the range of 25 to 65 degrees. Note that the portion connecting the main pole and first yoke can be considered part of the main pole. Figure 4 shows that the disk includes a recording layer (19) and a backing layer (20).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 8, 9, 11, and 12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 2652

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jefferson A. Evans whose telephone number is 571-272-7574. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Thi Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



JAE
April 10, 2005

Jefferson A. Evans
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2652

JEFFERSON EVANS
PRIMARY EXAMINER